WALTER ELWOOD MUSEUM
OF THE MOHAWK VALLEY
366 West Main Street ■ Amsterdam, NY 12010

NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
AMSTERDAM, NY
12010
PERMIT NO. 47

Giving thanks...

We are so very grateful to the following for their help and support during and after the Hurricane Irene Flood disaster:

NYS Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation
NYS Canal Corporation
NYS Thruway Authority
MLB Contractors, Inc.
Fucillo Automotive Group
Miller Printing and Litho
St. Mary's Hospital
Liberty Enterprises
Power Pallet
Mohawk Dairy
Subway
MOSA
Town of Amsterdam Supervisor, Thomas DiMezza
WCSS 1490 AM
Irish American Club and Tim Riley
First Niagara Bank, Amy Rossi
The Recorder
Price Chopper
Hannaford
U.S. Corrugated
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Grimm
Mr. Dave Northrup
FMCC Business Club
Amsterdam Retired Teachers' Association
Kyle's Bounce
The Gavry Family
Mr. Dave Swart
Montgomery County Sheriff's Dept.
Vern's Auto
Teamsters Painters Union & Jeff Stark
USM Solutions, LLC
St. Mary's Church

And many thanks to the countless individuals who donated cleaning supplies and donations to our Museum Flood Fund at First Niagara. If you would like to make a donation to the WEM Flood Fund please do so at any First Niagara branch in our area or mail to:

First Niagara, 11 Division St., Amsterdam, NY 12010, Attn. Museum Flood Fund

Please make all checks payable to the Walter Elwood Museum.

Rebuild, Recover & Reopen Campaign is underway!

The WEM's Commitment

To provide educational programming and events to the youth and families of the Mohawk Valley by highlighting our area's rich history and culture, to foster in all a love of exploration, learning and action as our founder, Walter Elwood, characterized best and to preserve our collections and artifacts for generations to come.

Our 2012 Campaign

Until Hurricane Irene ravaged our building, this year was shaping up to be a banner year. We had completed our move, opened nine beautiful exhibits, held four successful signature events, and hosted numerous phenomenal children's camps. Please help the museum rebuild, recover, and re-open by donating. The financial contribution you make will allow us to re-open our doors to the community.

Yes, I/We pledge to support to the Walter Elwood Museum. Please indicate desired membership level.

- ❑ Student or Senior $15
- ❑ Individual.....$20
- ❑ Family.....$30
- ❑ Patron or Professional.....$50
- ❑ Business.....$100
- ❑ Corporate.....$200
- ❑ Lifetime.....$500
- ❑ Circle of Friends.....$1000 or more
- ❑ Other .....$_____

Donor(s) _____ Business _____
Address _____ City, State, Zip _____
Phone _____ Email _____

Please make checks payable to Walter Elwood Museum, or: ❑ VISA ❑ MasterCard ❑ Discover
Name on Card _____
Account Number _____ Expiration Date _____

Please return form to: **Walter Elwood Museum, 366 West Main Street, Amsterdam NY 12010**
For more info, please contact Ann Peconie, Executive Director at 518.843.5151

WALTER ELWOOD MUSEUM

OF THE MOHAWK VALLEY

FALL 2011 NEWSLETTER

A Letter from the Executive Director

The Walter Elwood Museum suffered severe damage and loss from the flood caused by Hurricane Irene. Many artifacts were lost and severely damaged by the disaster. Although we are devastated by this tragedy, we are encouraged by the out-pouring of support the Museum has received from the community and its residents.

There is much work to be done. All flood affected artifacts must be cleaned, brushed and rid of all mud. So many valuable artifacts now require professional conservation treatment work to return them to the way they were pre-disaster. We are grateful to New York Council for the Humanities for the $1,000.00 Hurricane Irene Flood Recovery grant. We received the full amount allotted and these funds will go towards salary of museum staff who have worked countless long hours during the past two months since the flooding of the museum.

All of the staff at New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation have been wonderfully helpful and supportive during this state of emergency for the Museum. They allowed us access to a flood ravaged building to remove the flood damaged items and to pack and move out all non-flood affected items and exhibits on the second and third floors of the Guy Park Manor. All emergency contract crews especially MLB have been astoundingly kind in returning artifacts they have found during clean up and building stabilization. MLB even allowed us use of a box truck for a week to move items from the Manor site to our donated recovery site at 328 Division Street in the former Fucillo's Auto Plaza.

Our plans for the future remain uncertain. We have been informed by the Office of Parks that the Guy Park Manor will be rebuilt in 2012 and they have invited us to return to what will be a structurally improved and hazard mitigated site in 2013. The Board of Directors of the Walter Elwood Museum plan to consider this and all options and make a thoughtful decision in the months to come as information about Manor reconstruction is made available to the Board.

Our focus at this time is to restore and preserve the collections as best we can and that is where we need your help. Your membership and financial support will enable us to continue working towards the ultimate goal of being open again for public enjoyment and educational enrichment. We appreciate everyone who has donated to out Museum Flood Fund at First Niagara Bank. Please visit our website at **www.walterelwoodmuseum.org** for updates, become our friend on facebook at Walter Elwood, and stop down to our recovery site at 328 Division Street to help out and see what we are working on. The Museum collections belong to all of us and we welcome your input and assistance.

Walter Elwood Museum 2012 Fund Drive

We Need YOUR Help!
See page 4

Board of Directors

Susan Wollman, President
John Mattas, Vice President
Susanne Dorr, Secretary
Guy Cappuccio, Treasurer
Andrew Reed, Trustee
Gina Mintzer, Trustee
Robert Going, Trustee
William Wills, Trustee

Ann M. Peconie, Executive Director
Lesley Montenaro, Bookkeeper

Our Mission

The Walter Elwood Museum is a gateway to learning using the past to illuminate the present. Utilizing local experience, stories and artifacts, we examine history and culture in all its dimensions. We offer educational programs, unique collections and creative activities to enrich understanding of ourselves and each other.

Our Vision

As a cultural center, the Museum inspires curiosity, creativity, and understanding of our past and present. The Museum promotes a dynamic, rich, unified community that values its heritage.

Hurricane Irene a

At the Grand Re-opening Gala in May 2010 — after moving to the new site at the Manor, all exhibit rooms were designed and set up for public viewing and enjoyment.

The Manor Foyer — Artwork by Mary VanderVeer and Bessie Hill Bonhall, Amsterdam area residents and artists. Many of these pieces were damaged and will require professional conservation work. Only a few were a complete loss. It was a true tragedy! Water trapped in the long hall came up highest in the foyer and created a swirling whirlpool.

Flood-damaged artifacts recovered after Irene.

Display boxes in the Discovery Exhibit. All were lost in the flood.

The Military Room on the second floor of the Manor — It sustained substantial structural damage but no exhibit contents were lost or damaged. All have been packed carefully and stored for future display.

nd its aftermath...

Extensive damage to Museum exterior after Hurricane Irene.

Fortunately, the Library on the second floor of the Manor, pictured here prior to the flood, suffered no damage and all contents are preserved and intact.

The Victorian Parlor Exhibit Room — Almost all of the artifacts in this room were swept down the river when the walls opened due to intense water and debris impacting the West wing corners of the building. The bronzes on the mantle, the mirror above the mantle, the victrolla horn, a few paintings and other items have been salvaged and are repairable.

The DISCOVERY! Exhibit Interactive Stations were completely lost in the Hurricane, with the exception of a few stools and items hanging on the walls.

The Complicated Weave-Amsterdam Industrial Exhibit room prior to the disaster.

The Foyer of the Manor looking down from the staircase. Most items in the foyer, especially furniture, were lost or flood damaged.

Photos by Anna Beeke, Robert Going, Mark Perfetti and Ann Peconie